

MESSAGE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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DATE 4 December 1980

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J-2

FROM: USCINCEUR PARIS FRANCE

TO: JCS WASH DC, CINCELM LONDON ENGLAND,

INFO: USAMBASSADOR BONN GERMANY

NR: EC 9-3398

231238Z JUN 59

DA PASSES JCS. AMEMB BONN FOR USCINCEUR LIAISON
OFFICER.

1. The following USCOB reports of 2 Autobahn incidents
20 June 59 are for your information.

A. "At 2130 hrs, 20 June 59, Lt Clifford V. Jensen
USN 428957, VR-24, APO 566, cleared through B checkpoint and
subsequently stated that he traveled to Berlin in his private
car (C-31907) as a tourist. He was accompanied by his wife
and three children. About 50 miles East of Helmstedt,
he was stopped by 3 VOPO's and directed to a parking lot
along the Autobahn. He claimed that he was not speeding and
the stoppage appeared to be a routine check. Several German
cars were also stopped. While in the parking lot one of
the VOPO's said something in German and pointed to the document
on the seat. Lt Jensen stated that although briefed by the
military police in Helmstedt and aware of the fact that he was
not supposed to present his documents to East German officials
he automatically lifted up his documents with the papers
on top and held them against the closed window. The VOPO
glanced at the papers and motioned him to move on. The conduct
of the VOPO was polite and correct. About 40 minutes later,
he was flagged down again by VOPO's but when he slowed down and
they saw his American license plates, they waved him on to con-
tinue with his trip."

B. "At 2345 hrs, 20 June 59, Captain George H.
Yard, 279th Station Hosp, APO 742, was stopped by VOPO's
on the Autobahn who demanded that he show his documents.
Captain Yard refused to comply and asked for a Russian officer.
The VOPO's first told him to wait at the side of the road and,
after 20 minutes of waiting ordered him to follow their car
in order to contact a Russian officer. When Captain Yard
refused to carry out the order he was again approached by
several East German officials who informed him in an angry
voice that they, and not the Russians were in control of the
Autobahn and also threatened to detain him for a week or longer

DA IN 224722

(23 JUN 59)

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if he didn't comply with their demands. However, after another waiting period of about 40 minutes he and his wife were permitted to proceed to Berlin (0220 hrs). The VOP's were discourteous and threatening, but did not attempt to interrogate Capt Yord or his wife."

2. USCIB is presently studying the incident involving Capt Yord and intends to render protest to Soviets.

ACTION: JCS

INFO: CSA, CNO, CSAF, CMC

DA IN 224722

(23 Jun 59)

sc/3

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8 JUN 58

35-2

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